

BROOKLINE MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES 1/20/2026

Meeting Date: January 20, 2026; 4pm

Members present: Jon Ballou, Tim Carr and Fran Carr, Julie Roach

Public Present: Alyssa Schmidt

Bruce Mello provided an email thanking Committee for the events during the 2025 year – making the BMH a focal point for the Community. He also provided several suggestions for 2026 events.

AS spoke to us about a group that is interested in Brookline's history. The group is planning on getting together on Tuesday the 27th of January. They will discuss if there is enough interest to create something similar to a historical center or society.

Donation Mailings:

- JB to update the text on the postcards
- JB will update GoFundMe information
- TC will update the address list of those who have second homes in Brookline; those postcards will be mailed to their primary address
- JB to ask Select Board for funds to cover mailings. Last year this cost about \$600.
- FC will work with Minuteman and have them print and mail the donation request post cards
- Mailings will go out by the middle of March

Town Meeting: Perhaps make a statement that we are the BMH Committee and are continuing to plan events for the year. Ask for suggestions for events. We also talked about asking for anyone who wants to join the Committee, but we thought that we should wait until a decision is made about what to do with the town building, since a decision of what to do with the school building might impact on what needs to be done to the Meetinghouse.

Review Events for 2026:

- **Plant Sale.** JB or FC (whomever gets to it first) to ask Lee Anne Parker if she still wants to coordinate this event. Should we hold the sale earlier so that it does not fall on Memorial Day? Because potential volunteers might be away that weekend.
- **Spring Evening Music Event.** There is a jazz group that the Carrs know of. Julian Gerstn (?), co-leads the Latin Jazz Ensemble. FC to see if they are available. And what it would cost. Even if it was costly, we feel that this is the kind of event that the Committee raises funds for.

- **Town Party.** We held it in late August last year and did not have as much attendance as previous years. (About how many???). This might have been due to it being the weekend before school began and people were busy. Perhaps have this before July 4th, when people go on holiday. Suggestions from community: Have music outside? Better signs to direct people to the ice cream? Set up a table about Brookline history? Find additional items to raffle?
- **Soup Night.** Fewer people attended than we were hoping for. Maybe our \$5/\$10 servings were too high. Discussed making it free to make it a service to the community.
- **Legislators' meeting.** JB to check with Alyssa Schmidt to see if she is interested in coordinating this again. They will also be invited to the Town Meeting.
- **Holiday Social and Cookie Exchange.** It was attended by about 20, but many more cookies! Music was appreciated. Cookies were on a table in the back of the sanctuary, with music in the front. This split the attention of those attending and it felt a bit awkward to have most of the attendees in the back chatting while the music and vocals played. Suggestion to have more food and drink options available. We will need to consider if this is a simple cookie exchange or a more musical event.
- **Host an Easter Egg Hunt?** Agreed this might be fun. But maybe just partner with the Newfane group that does their egg hunt? Partner as in co-announce the Hunt, have Committee members (or volunteers) assist with the Newfane group? JR to check on this.
- **Pumpkin Night?** This also seems like it might be fun. Ask a local farmer if they are willing to donate a small number of pumpkins? Have pumpkin carving available with good set of carving tools? Will discuss further later in the year.

Budget...

Next meeting. On November 30th, this Committee reached out to the Brookline Select Board. Comments from the community and the Select Board suggested that a Committee for the Meetinghouse needs to take on more responsibilities than our current Committee is offering. The current Committee focuses on organizing community events. But the BMH has additional needs that should be addressed, such as raising funding for and planning for renovations and upgrades. Our Committee asked the Select Board to consider how the Committee might need to be expanded to address these needs. We decided to hold off on our next meeting until after this discussion with the Select Board.